

REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 12, 30, 32 and 34-49 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 30, 32, 34-36 and 40-49 have been amended; Claims 12 and 37-39 have been cancelled; and, Claims 50-100 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 30, 32, 34-36 and 40-100 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Claims 40-49 are allowed. Furthermore, the Examiner objected to Claims 12 and 37-39 as being depending upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that such claims would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have cancelled objected-to Claim 12 and have introduced new independent Claim 50, which substantially includes the limitations of Claims 1 and 12. Similarly, Applicants have cancelled objected-to Claim 37 and have introduced new independent Claim 51, which substantially includes the limitations of Claims 30 and 37. Further, Applicants have cancelled Claims 38-39 and have introduced corresponding Claims 52-53, which depend from new Claim 51.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 12, 30, 32 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,567,233 to Chew et al. (hereinafter “Chew”).

Claim 1, as amended herein, recites “selectively reading data from at least one recording surface via at least one transducer head while writing final servo patterns to at least one recording surface via at least one transducer head.” (Emphasis added). Claim 30, as amended herein, recites similar limitations. Therefore, Claims 1 and 30 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 37.

III. New Claims

Claims 50-100 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 50-53 correspond to Claims 12 and 37-39, respectively, as mentioned above.

Claims 54-60 depend on Claim 51 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 51.

Claim 61 recites “a preamplifier that controls read and write operations for the heads based on configuration information, wherein the configuration information provides head selection and data transfer mode information that includes (1) a read mode in which each selected head reads from a corresponding disk surface, (2) a write mode in which each selected head writes to a corresponding disk surface, (3) a servo write mode in which each selected head writes final servo patterns to a corresponding disk surface, and (4) a read-while-write (RWW) mode in which each read selected head reads from a corresponding disk surface while each write selected head writes to a corresponding disk surface.” (Emphasis added). Therefore, Claim 61 is allowable, at least, for reasons similar to Claims 42 and 43. Claims 62-80 depend on Claim 61 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 61.

Claim 81 recites “the drive controller sets the configuration information to (1) the read mode for read operations, (2) the write mode for write operations, and (3) the RWW mode for self-servo write such that the first head reads a reference pattern from the first disk surface to position the first and second heads while the second head writes final servo patterns to the second disk surface.” (Emphasis added). Therefore, Claim 81 is allowable for at least the same reasons as objected-to Claim 37. Claims 82-90 depend on Claim 81 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 81.

Claim 91 recites “the drive controller sets the configuration information to (1) the read mode for read operations, (2) the write mode for write operations, and (3) the RWW mode such that the first head reads from the first disk surface for an entire revolution of the first disk surface while the second head writes to the second disk surface for an entire revolution of the second disk surface.” (Emphasis added). Therefore, Claim 91 is allowable for at least the same reasons as objected-to Claim 12. Claims 92-100 depend on Claim 91 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 91.

IV. Other Amendments to Claims

The claims have been amended to improve clarity. No new matter has been added.

V. Additional Claim Fees

In determining whether additional claim fees are due, reference is made to the Fee Calculation Table (below).

Fee Calculation Table

| | Claims Remaining After Amendment | | Highest Number Previously Paid For | Present Extra | Rate | Additional Fee |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| Total (37 CFR 1.16(c)) | 70 | Minus | 39 | = 31 | x \$50 = | \$ 1550.00 |
| Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b)) | 13 | Minus | 9 | = 4 | x \$200 = | \$ 800.00 |

As set forth in the Fee Calculation Table (above), Applicants previously paid claim fees for thirty-nine (39) total claims and for nine (9) independent claims. Therefore, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge the credit card identified on the enclosed Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$2350.00 for the presentation of thirty-one (31) total claims over thirty-nine (39) and four (4) independent claims over nine (9). Although Applicants believe that no other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

VI. Conclusion

It is believed the above comments establish patentability. Applicants do not necessarily accede to the assertions and statements in the Office Action, whether or not expressly addressed.

Applicants believe that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Tejpal S. Hansra
Registration No. 38,172
Hansra Patent Services
4525 Glen Meadows Place
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 527-1400

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